Encyclopaedia Aristasiana

Find in Entire Site Go

Backlinks...

Menu

Home
Search
List pages
Last Changes

Image Galleries

Main Sections

Aristasian Glossary
Aristasian Life and Culture
Aristasia Pura
Aristasia in Telluria
Philosophy and Religion
Sound and Kinematics
Telluria Criticism

Random Pages

Pigeon-holing
Caire
Novaria
Haya
Masculi
The Eclipse
Infraquirinelle
Atomisation
Standing Etiquette
Aristasian Life and Culture

Search

in:
Entire Site Go

Login

Login as...
User:
Password:
Login

Standard | Secure

Animism

The Aristasian reverence to the Sun (but also to such things as wind and fire) has occasionally been described as "nature-worship" or "animism". In determining whether this is accurate, it is necessary to consider what we mean by these terms. In particular, we have to understand that when such terms are used by modern Tellurians (and by modern we here mean the last few centuries) they have a special colouring caused by the peculiar intellectual history of modern western Telluria (see Rationalism).

The Christian West has undergone a process of separating nature from the Divine up to the point when that religion is inherently hostile to what it terms "the supernatural", and indeed believes in a mechanistic, materialistic universe with God balanced (in the Aristasian view, rather uncomfortably) on the top.

The concept of nature implied by this view is of an inanimate agglomerate of matter - and when this civilisation speaks of "primitive nature worship" it tends to be projecting its own view of a purely material natural world onto earlier (and some current) peoples, and imagining that it is this that they are worshiping - which would certainly be absurd.

However, since no such process has taken place in Aristasian thought, it must be understood that the Aristasian mind sees natural things as *ensouled*, or as outward manifestations of the eternal Archetypes which they embody. So while an Aristasian is not unaware of the physical nature of the sun, or that the moon is a satellite, she also sees them as the physical manifestation of the Solar and Lunar principles which must always exist and therefore existed long before our physical sun and moon came into being and will exist long after they have passed away.

And so it is also with the earth, the rain, the planets and other "avatars" of eternal principles. They are to be honoured just as a Princess or a Mother is to be honoured - not merely for herself but as the bearer of a principle beyond herself.

As one begins to understand this, one sees that "nature worship" is no less intellectual or spiritual than the Higher

Religions as they are termed. In Aristasia reverence for nature and supernatural religion form a continuum.

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